

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A device for a reverse vending machine for bottles and cans comprising a cover (14), for a front portion of the reverse vending machine (16, 18), said front cover having a feed opening (22) accessible from the outside and through which bottles and cans are inserted into the reverse vending machine, said cover being formed to be secured independently of an internal bottle-/can-handling device and other apparatus (16, 18) of the reverse vending machine such that the reverse vending machine is operable with the cover removed, wherein the feed opening (22) of the front cover (14), for bottles and cans is without a fixed connection to pipework within the reverse vending machine (16, 18) and wherein adjacent said feed opening (22) in the front cover (14) is formed provided a drain opening (26) ~~therethrough for the emptying of~~ through the front cover formed to receive and drain away remnants from bottles or cans before ~~being the~~ the bottles or cans are inserted into the reverse vending machine (16, 18) through the feed opening (22) of the front cover (14) and ~~a corresponding~~ an opening (20) positioned within the internal bottle-/can-handling device of the reverse vending machine that corresponds to the feed opening (22) of the front cover (14).

Claim 2 (currently amended): A device according to claim 1, wherein the drain opening (26) of the front cover (14), for remnants, is formed ~~in an upwards~~ as an upwardly open bowl, whose opening at ~~the~~ a rear side of the front cover (14) ends in a drain pipe socket (28).

Claim 3 (currently amended): A device according to claim 2, wherein within the front cover (14), below ~~the~~ an outlet opening of the drain pipe socket (28) is arranged a ~~preferably~~ upwards open drain channel (30).

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Claim 4 (previously amended): A device according to claim 3, wherein the drain channel (30) has a generally horizontal extent and is connected to an outlet (32).

Claim 5 (new): A device according to claim 3 wherein said drain channel is upwardly open.